Subj: **watermarks**
Date: 06/29/2006 8:32:18 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: egoldstein@cwf.org

Dear Erik:

In studying the watermark process during the 18th century I find that making one sheet of paper at a time the watermark design was sometimes mounted (apparently on a board) and pressed against the flat wire mesh after some slurry had already run through the mesh. When the design was held against the mesh the slurry could not get through that portion of the mesh leaving no paper deposit under the design area. Then the design would be removed and the slurry would fill evenly again all over.

This would leave a thinner paper where the design blocked the flow. The design would have to be retrograde if it was to be read from the facing side. If it was to be read from the back side the watermark design would read normally.

Thus if a watermark design letter was improperly cut because the cutter got mixed up then a retrograde N might result and other letters be OK. When the error was found the retrograde letter could have been corrected. That could be the reason for a retrograde N and a normal N being in the paper used for the same counterfeit variety.

Does this sound reasonable? Eric